



REDLAND HIGH SCHOOL



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Frontispiece]

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By

M. G. SHAW

WITH A FOREWORD BY
ELIZABETH STURGE

BRISTOL

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Some things they knew that we know not ;
Some things we know by them unknown ;
But the axles of their wheels were hot
With the same frenzies as our own.

FRANCIS BURDETT MONEY-COUTTS.

FOREWORD

BRISTOL, once known as a "City of Churches," might now with equal fitness be called a "City of Schools."

So many and varied in type are our excellent schools, that it is difficult to realize that sixty years ago most of them did not exist. It is true that laudable efforts were made in the cause of learning by a number of early benefactors. There was Robert Thorne, who in 1532 founded the Grammar School; and John Carr, who left a bequest in 1586 to be used in establishing "a place for bringing up poor children and orphans, being men children"—the "place" now so well known as Queen Elizabeth's Hospital. Then early in the eighteenth century Edward Colston and Alderman Whitson set up the boarding schools for boys and girls which are associated with their names. All these institutions, notwithstanding a somewhat chequered history, did useful work for the limited number of children for whom they provided; but for the rank and file of the population nothing was done.

According to Latimer, the historian of our city, in 1700 illiteracy was still so common that even responsible persons, deemed fit for the office of churchwarden, were sometimes unable to write. "In Queen Elizabeth's Hospital," he tells us,

"thirty-six boys received the barest elements of schooling." If this was so for the men, what must have been the plight of the women? "For the other sex," says Latimer, "there is abundant evidence that even among the widows of Mayors, and the sisters and daughters of Knightly Aldermen, an ability to write was in 1700 unusual." That this accomplishment was considered unnecessary for many women is borne out by the fact which we have on the same authority that "in the Red Maids' Institution forty poor girls were taught to read, but not to write, by two mistresses, one of whom could not sign her own name, and the other appended an unsightly blotch to the quarterly receipts for their salaries of £5 each."

As years went on matters must have greatly improved. The National Society and the British and Foreign School Society were founded early in the nineteenth century, and in Bristol, as elsewhere, established a number of elementary schools; but higher grade teaching, until about 1860, remained in the hands of a small number of trustees and a few able headmasters, who carried on schools of their own. There were private schools for girls also, some of them so poorly taught and equipped as hardly to deserve the name, while even in those of more pretension, little provision was made for serious study, accomplishments being then the order of the day for girls.

Among the many movements which made the latter part of the nineteenth century notable was

that for the higher education of women. A wave of educational activity passed over the country about that time; but at first it was chiefly concerned with founding the many boys' schools and "colleges" which date from that period. Strenuous efforts were made by a band of pioneer women to improve the education of girls, whose interests had been allowed for so long to lag behind those of their brothers. The present generation, which has benefited by the many good schools now to be found all over the country, can have no conception of the mountains of inertia and prejudice which had to be removed before they could be brought into existence, or of what it involved for the devoted women concerned and a number of enlightened men who backed them up. A prominent worker in Bristol was Miss Catherine Winkworth, whose death was undoubtedly hastened by the hard work entailed in setting up the High School for Girls at Clifton. It is interesting to note that Redland High School, which was opened about five years afterwards, was actually called into being by the desire of a father to have such teaching within the reach of his daughters.

All this would have availed little if there had not been a number of women able to organize and carry on the new institutions. Some of them deserve to rank with the great headmasters who did so much for the boys. It required an unusual combination of qualities, for they had to work out their own methods, and form their own traditions, and to do this without alienating timid parents

still fearful of too much change. Redland High School was singularly fortunate in this respect. Miss Cocks, its first headmistress, who held the position for twenty-five years, was in the true line of succession. Far-seeing and courageous, she went straight on, and when difficulties arose she boldly faced and overcame them. I like to think of her heading her procession of girls, when, having outgrown their first school house, they went in a body to take possession of the old Georgian mansion which was henceforth to be theirs. It seems typical of the way in which such work should be done that, inheriting a noble habitation from the past, they used it and adapted it to modern needs, until expansion in the old buildings could go no further. All must rejoice that a munificent gift under the will of the late Canon Gamble—for many years Chairman of the Council—has made some important additions possible, which will, it is hoped, enable future generations of pupils to achieve still more. So, naturally, does the present grow out of the past and prepare the way, in its turn, for the future.

Miss Cocks had a number of splendid helpers. Many have passed away, but others happily survive, among them some who have long been headmistresses themselves. All who were ever interested in the school, whether as pupils or managers, will unite in offering them and their many successors an affectionate greeting; and to Miss Taylor, the present Headmistress, and her staff will wish all success in the difficult years which lie before them, assured that the future of

the School is safe in their hands. The graphic account which follows from the pen of Miss Mabel Shaw, its able Secretary, tells a tale of fifty years of ceaseless activity and growth, and to readers of every period will, I am sure, be of very great interest.

To each and all, and to this history of the School, I wish God-speed.

ELIZABETH STURGE.

INTRODUCTION

IN writing this history I have undertaken a very difficult task. My only qualifications are that I have access to certain old records and that my love for the School extends over twenty years. I could never have undertaken it but for the help and encouragement of Miss Edith Bancroft and many others, and for the friendly spirit with which my present colleagues have helped on my efforts. I am acutely conscious of the inadequacy of this production, and offer in advance my sincere apologies to all those old members of the School who find omissions and mistakes in it.

I should like here to express my gratitude to Miss Elizabeth Sturge, one of our Vice-Presidents, for the great honour she has done me in writing a Foreword. In addition to her work for the School while a member of Council from 1896 to 1917 Miss Sturge, as one of the Gamble Trustees, has been largely instrumental in obtaining for us such a generous portion of Canon Gamble's estate for scholarships and buildings.

If I were to mention by name all those people who have helped to make Redland what it is, the story would be like one of the genealogical chapters in the Book of Chronicles ; and if I were to say all that ought to be said about the people I do mention

the book would exceed in size even the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. I have been obliged, therefore, only to mention those names which, if left out, would cause the very stones of the terrace to cry out and the boards of the floors to creak in reproach.

The names of our chief founders and benefactors are ever before us : we have our Urijah Thomas, Percival, Tait and Gilmore Barnett Houses ; our Elizabeth Cocks, Shekleton, Emily Sturge and Gamble Scholarships ; and when the time comes that we are able to commemorate more names there will be no difficulty in finding them.

January, 1932.

M. G. S.

REDLAND HIGH SCHOOL

I

1882—1906

IN the year 1880 the Rev. T. G. Rose, formerly Minister of Clifton Down Congregational Church, started a school for the benefit of the girls of Redland and the neighbourhood whose parents desired them to have an education on Public School lines, and who lived at too great a distance to attend the recently-opened Clifton High School for Girls. There was, of course, no Redland Station then, and it was before the days of trams and buses.

Mr. Rose consulted his friend, the Rev. Urijah Thomas, Minister of Redland Park Church, who helped him, not only by advice, but by writing up to London to ask for the best teacher that the University could supply. In response to this appeal, Miss Elizabeth Cocks, described as a young and enthusiastic teacher who was already on the staff of Devonport High School, came down to see Mr. Rose, who immediately engaged her.

Two houses, Numbers 27 and 28 Redland Grove, were taken, and there the School was opened in September, 1880, with four pupils—Enid and Ada

Rose, Nora Browne and Edith Carver. Mrs. Rose looked after the general welfare of the girls ; Mr. Rose taught Mathematics, Science, Latin and Scripture ; and Miss Cocks with an assistant took the rest of the work.

The need for a school must have been great, and the original pupils must have conducted themselves with great decorum, demonstrating to the neighbourhood the value of their education, for in a year's time there were about forty pupils. Mr. Rose, who from the first had wanted the School to be a real High School, thought the time had come when it should be in public hands, and again consulted the Rev. Urijah Thomas, who needs no introduction to Redland girls, past or present. Urijah Thomas had (for those days) most advanced views about the education of girls ; he actually thought they should have the same opportunities as their brothers ; and here was a task after his own heart. He collected a little band of like enthusiasts, and formed a Council, which purchased the School from Mr. Rose in 1882. That Mr. Rose was actuated by zeal for the cause of education and no thought of self-interest is clear, for it is recorded that the Council, discovering that he was decidedly out of pocket by the transfer, insisted on making him a grant to cover his loss.

In May, 1882, therefore, was opened the Redland High School at 28 Redland Grove under the new Council, who had elected as Chairman the Rev. William Prideaux, Vicar of St. Saviour's, Redland, and as Vice-Chairman Mr. Urijah Thomas. Miss



ELIZABETH ANN COCKS

Headmistress 1882-1907

Cocks was formally appointed Headmistress, and there were forty-six pupils. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rose continued to take a great interest in the School, and until the death of the former in 1884 the boarders lived under their care. To the kindness of Mrs. Rose I am indebted for the corroboration of these facts.

Miss Cocks from the very first determined that the School should be up to date—yes, and up to time too—for at her first Council meeting on May 1st, 1882, she asked permission to purchase clocks for the classrooms, books to start a teachers' library, and a collection of chemicals. This was the beginning of our Science Department, which at the time of writing is on the verge of moving into a grand wing of its own. Progress in every way was rapid—the School grew, the staff grew, and the girls grew very fast (in July, 1882, twelve desks of the largest size were ordered). It is abundantly clear that Miss Cocks was a born organizer, and that her influence was of so dynamic a quality that she was able to instil into the School in those earliest days quite as strong a public spirit and sense of corporate life as exists in the School at the present day, surrounded as we are by all the social organizations and helps to community life that have grown up in the last fifty years.

In December, 1882, Miss Cocks obtained permission to appoint a Chemistry master. There were still some subjects which it was thought women were not quite up to teaching—there were masters for Drawing, French and Drill, although Miss Cocks had insisted that a lady must teach Dancing.

In April, 1883, Canon Percival, who had resigned the Headmastership of Clifton College four years earlier, became President of the School, and began his long connection with it, lasting until his death in 1918.

In May, 1883, a great step forward was taken (we may imagine with a certain amount of trepidation!), for a lady was elected to the Council. This was Miss Emily Sturge, whose wise judgment and shrewd advice were most valuable to Miss Cocks in the early days of the School. Until her death in 1892 Miss Sturge was a source of strength to the Council; she gave a Scholarship in 1886 for a girl to study Science at the Merchant Venturers' College, and in this way encouraged the girls to go on working after they left school. The School owes a great deal to Miss Sturge for her pioneer work in this direction.

At this time the Council began to look for a larger house for the School, and fortunately the neighbouring mansion of Redland Court was put up for sale. Canon Percival suggested that this beautiful house would make a more fitting home for the Redland High School than its now somewhat cramped quarters. The Council, therefore, began to consider the purchase of the estate.

During this year Mr. Tait, another of our honoured benefactors, began his connection with the School. He was at that time a master at Clifton College, and was asked by Canon Percival to examine the School, which he did in July, 1883, and subsequently two or three times a year for many years.

This July was marked by another exciting, and maybe to the girls more welcome, event. The first public Prize Giving of the School was held on July 30th in Tyndale Lecture Hall, Whiteladies Road, with the Mayor of Bristol (Mr. J. D. Weston) in the chair. This was the first public meeting held since the foundation of the School, and from the Headmistress's report, read by Mr. Urijah Thomas (for in those days women, even headmistresses, did not readily uplift their voices in public), we find that the numbers had reached seventy-one. The highest form was the Fourth ; two girls had passed the Cambridge Junior Local Examination in the previous December, one gaining distinction in Scripture ; and one pupil had received a prize for Freehand Drawing at South Kensington. The Mayor showed his interest in the School by giving a prize of two guineas for the best girl in the School during the past term, and this was awarded to Marie Phelps.

In December Miss Cocks obtained permission to hire a piano for school use. I do not know whether a tuning-fork had been used before this, but I am rather inclined to suspect that Miss Cocks had provided the piano herself in the early days of the School.

In March, 1884, Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett were appointed caretakers. They gave devoted service for many years, and are remembered with affection by many old girls.

The School was now attracting many pupils from a distance, and the Council drew up a memorial

which they sent to the Great Western and Midland Railways asking for a station to be opened at Lovers' Walk. I wonder how many of the people who use the station now realize that the first people to agitate for it were the Council of the Redland High School.

This summer the Council began to negotiate seriously with Mr. Dole, the owner of Redland Court; for as the Headmistress's report at the second Prize Giving on July 29th, 1884, showed, the numbers were rapidly increasing, there being then 113 in all—88 in the big School and 25 in the Kindergarten. Miss Cocks also reported that a Fifth Form had been started, and expressed the hope that the time was not far distant when there would actually be a Sixth Form. The Mayor was again in the chair, and remarked that the School was already noted for the kindly feeling among the girls. He also said that the School had added greatly to the prosperity of the neighbourhood. Canon Percival distributed the prizes, and said that he doubted whether there were many schools anywhere in the country that had such an efficient system of examination and inspection as that which they had enjoyed during the past year, thanks to Mr. Tait. He thought they were in a fair way to have in Redland under their excellent Headmistress one of the best girls' schools in the country for morals and manners as well as for education. In thanking the Mayor for his interest, he assured him that in years to come he would have the satisfaction of feeling that, among the good works in which he

had taken part during his mayoralty, that of helping the Redland High School for Girls was by no means the least beneficial to the City of Bristol.

In September of this year the School really overflowed, and it was found necessary to rent a house in Grove Park for the Kindergarten. The Council held a great many meetings to discuss the purchase of Redland Court, and finally in November the momentous step was taken and the estate was purchased for the sum of £5,500. The Council arranged forthwith with Mr. Craik, architect and surveyor, to make the alterations necessary to adapt the house for a school.

In the spring term, 1885, Miss F. M. Baker was engaged as visiting mistress for Gymnastics, and at the end of the term we find the Council sending her a special message of thanks for her teaching of Calisthenics.

May 12th, 1885, must have been, I think, the most exciting day in the whole history of the School, for on that day the pupils, numbering 150 in all, assembled for the summer term in Redland Grove to migrate *en bloc*, led by Miss Cocks, to their wonderful new home on the hill. I wish I had been there, and I wish we had a frieze commemorating the procession. I am sure it would vie with that of the Canterbury Pilgrims. On arriving at Redland Court, Miss Cocks took the whole party on a tour of inspection. One can well imagine the excitement—yes, and the awe—as they went from room to room and realized that this beautiful house was to be their School; and from that day to this I venture

to say that all true Redlandites have felt, and do feel, that they owe more than can be expressed in words to the beautiful and dignified surroundings in which they have received their education. One of those who took part in this migration has written that "an eager group of excited children were led in delighted exploration from room to room. The last stage of that memorable journey was to the stables, for that highly-respectable, nay, imposing building near the carriage gates was the stables." There were partitioned stalls, each with a strip of black wood above the manger bearing the horse's name—"Bob,"—"Jerry," etc. I read that there was once a famous colony of rooks at Redland Court, and the old house must have thought from the chattering that they had moved indoors.

On May 19th, exactly a week after term had begun, the grand opening ceremony was held—"a conversazione" at 8 o'clock in the three main rooms of the mansion, opening on to the entrance hall. These were the reception room (now the Sixth Form), the library (leading out of it opposite the main staircase), and the drawing room (leading out of it opposite the other staircase). It must indeed have been a gay scene, for the rooms had not yet donned their sober school uniform. The reception and drawing rooms were painted grey, the panels being edged with pink and gold, and, glory of glories, the library walls were of thick crimson corded silk. On the swing doors which shut off the central block from the wings were long mirrors framed in gilt. All this made the

girls feel that they had come into a veritable fairy castle.

Canon Percival was in the chair at the conversation, and one of the Council, Mr. W. R. Barker, read an interesting paper on Redland and Redland Court, past and present; but as most of the information he gave is contained in the pamphlet on the history of Redland Court brought out in 1926 by Miss St. John and illustrated by Miss Fitchew, there is no need for me to dwell further on this. Mr. Prideaux also spoke, and rejoiced that men were learning to welcome women as their compeers in education, as well as their cherished companions and friends in daily life.

The first time I find Mr. Gilmore Barnett's name mentioned in connection with the School is the record of his attendance at this function.

It must have been difficult for the girls to settle down to their lessons at first, and how often those who had Latin lessons in the stables must have wished the horses were still in their stalls! There is a note that the Chairman and Secretary were empowered to put the striking of the stable clock in order. Chemistry lessons were given in the hay-loft above, the site of our present gallery.

On July 28th, 1885, the first Prize Giving at Redland Court was held, and as there was as yet no large hall, a spacious marquee was erected on the lawn. Mr. Prideaux was in the chair, and stated that since the Redland High School had been founded the numbers had more than doubled themselves. He congratulated the School on having

such a beautiful habitation, but pointed out that the increase in numbers had taken place before the move to Redland Court, which fact was as great a tribute to Miss Cocks and the efficiency of the School as could be paid. The Sheriff of Bristol, Mr. John Harvey, distributed the prizes, and said what a pleasant sight it was to see everyone looking so happy. This did not surprise him, for he thought no other school in the kingdom possessed a more beautiful house and grounds. Miss Cocks in her report said: "We hardly know how to rejoice enough over having become the possessors of Redland Court . . . the joy of the pupils is perhaps greatest on account of the grounds, which have enabled us to organize Tennis and Cricket Clubs and other games."

I do not think there were many women who in 1885 were enlightened enough to say as Miss Cocks did, continuing her report: "My co-workers and I are looking for great results from these outdoor sports. We anticipate that the daily increasing energy which we see developing in physical exercise will aid the girls in attaining a higher standard of energy and courage in mental work." She reported that at last a small Sixth Form had been organized and was to begin work in September, and that she was aiming for the first time at presenting candidates for the London Matriculation.

This September the Social Evening Society was formed. Members of the Sixth and Fifth Forms and Old Girls met on Friday evenings for reading from the best English Authors, Music, Discussion

and Refreshments. In 1889 a Debating Society was combined with it, and thus began the Literary and Debating Society which is so flourishing at the present day. We can see now why, however serious our business may be, we still call the gatherings of the Literary and Debating Society "Socials."

This autumn part of the basement was adapted for a cloakroom and part for a coal cellar, and at the same time it was decided to use the stable as a temporary Drill Room and Hall. Sergeant-Major O'Reilly was engaged to come as a Drill Master for an hour and a half weekly, to supplement, I suppose, the Calisthenics.

In February, 1886, a decision was made which doubtless delighted staff and girls equally—school examinations by Mr. Tait and other Clifton College masters were only to take place in July instead of at the end of every term.

During the Easter holidays a covered way was made from the main building to the Drill Hall. The summer term opened with 188 girls, and the principle of dividing the School into Senior, Middle and Junior was adopted for the first time.

July, 1886, was a red-letter month for the School, as Mr. Gilmore Barnett joined the Council.

Canon Percival presided at the Prize Giving this year, again held in a marquee on the lawn. Miss Cocks reported that for the first time a Redland High School girl, Ellen Tucker, had passed London Matriculation, and added: "We hope our young undergraduate is the first of a goodly train to follow." She also remarked on a grave temptation

to overwork on the part of the pupils, and said that it was with difficulty that they were persuaded to confine their work to the hours assigned, and were prone to deprive themselves of the outdoor games and sports which she very zealously advocated. (Evidently the eternal problem of "Home Work" was rife even at that early stage.) She pointed out that the girls must have opportunity for leisure, recreation, and even a moderate share of home duties, but added that it was a great satisfaction to her that the prize-winners were mostly those who were to be seen regularly in the playground. It is interesting to note that Canon Percival in his speech referred to Matthew Arnold's recent report on continental schools, in which he said that English education would never be satisfactory until girls' schools other than elementary were properly organized. Canon Percival went on to say that he considered the organization of Redland High School would quite come up to the standard advocated by Matthew Arnold.

It had long been one of Miss Cocks's dearest wishes that there should be a Reference Library for the senior girls, and in October of this year her perseverance was rewarded, for the Council voted £5 for this purpose.

This year saw also the development of dramatic talent in the School, for the senior girls acted *As You Like It*. The following year they produced *The Merchant of Venice*, and in 1889 *Much Ado about Nothing*. Each time the dresses were made by the girls themselves.

We think we are very much up to date when we study hygiene nowadays, but in the spring term, 1887, Dr. Walker Dunbar gave a course of Hygiene Lectures to the School. She set an examination paper at the end and gave a prize which was won by Edith Bancroft. There were already, I see, Swimming, Tennis and Cricket Competitions.

This year the front hall was paved and two rooms were added on the top of the east wing, thereby extending Miss Cocks's private apartments.

At the Prize Giving held on July 28th, again in a marquee, the Headmistress's Report showed that the numbers had now risen to 202; that Enid Stacey had passed the London Matriculation, and Katie Coates the First Examination for women of Oxford University. Mr. Tait, in giving his examination report, predicted a great future for the School if the energy and perseverance then so noticeable were kept up. Canon Ainger distributed the prizes, and said that he considered the growth in numbers remarkable, equalled as it was by the high standard of education.

In September Miss Theodora Johnson was appointed to give instruction in Ling's System of Gymnastics. Old Girls were allowed to attend the classes, much to their delight.

In March, 1888, Dr. Walker Dunbar offered a prize for the best essay on "The Duty of Women as Citizens," and this prize was won by Edith Bancroft.

By this time everything seemed to be going ahead very fast and activities were being multiplied. I

find it noted that during this summer term every Monday a large contingent betook themselves to the Clifton Swimming Baths, and a great determination arose amongst the girls to have more gymnastic apparatus, for which they themselves collected £11. They also began to agitate for a School Motto.

It is interesting to note that at a Council Meeting held this summer the question was seriously discussed as to whether a foot-path should be made in Redland Court Road, which appears to have been a regular sea of mud.

At the sixth annual Prize Giving held this July Mr. Lewis Fry presided, and gave a most interesting account of the progress made in girls' education during his memory. He told the girls that when he was a young man "the curriculum for young ladies consisted of the three R's, a smattering of English history, the mysterious process known as the use of globes, and French which would probably be better understood in London than in Paris. Then there were accomplishments—a little drawing, not very artistic; a little music—the inevitable music which all highly esteemed but which as then taught was a terror to the social circle and to next-door neighbours." He went on to say that there were formerly only a few circles in which substantial elements of education were much more highly thought of than accomplishments, though this was the case in the community to which he belonged, for Quaker ladies usually had a substantial education. Now, he was thankful to

say, it was no longer thought that girls and young women ought to be excluded from any branch of human life. There was no divine right on the part of the male sex to the exclusive possession of the great stores of human intellect of the past. A very noticeable point was the disappearance of the fear, which had been widely entertained, that higher education would unfit women for the domestic and social duties of their sphere. He felt glad they did not forget the training of the body, without which the mind could not properly work. In conclusion, he doubted whether there was another High School in the country possessing such beautiful surroundings.

Miss Cocks reported that three girls had gained the London Matriculation, and that Edith Bancroft and Alberta Linthorn had gained full Higher Certificates of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board after only six months' work, the decision to take the Joint Board Lower and Higher Certificate Examinations only having been made in January. Edith Bancroft had also gained an Exhibition to Cardiff University College, and Enid Stacey the first Catherine Winkworth Scholarship at Bristol University College. She also reported that a Circulating Library of good standard authors had been started. After the Prize Giving was over a concert was given on the terrace.

About this time I find reference to the fact that an omnibus was run from Temple Meads to the School exclusively for Redland High School girls.

The Headmistress in her report at the Prize

Giving in July, 1889, mentioned that five girls had gained full Higher Certificates of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board, and one London Matriculation, and that Alberta Linthorn had won the Catherine Winkworth Scholarship at Bristol University College.

In August Miss Cocks took a party of girls to Paris for the week-end to see the great Paris Exhibition. One of their number wrote of the expedition: "We drove from Paddington to Victoria in private omnibuses, most of us on top, which caused a great sensation amongst the aristocrats of Hyde Park." They had a thrilling time in Paris, where apparently one of the things that impressed them most was driving in tiny tramcars drawn by mules.

In December Dr. Percival came from Rugby to distribute the Certificates which had been gained since the public Prize Giving in July. A visit from the President made it indeed a red-letter day for the School, and the day before a large party of the girls walked to Coombe Dingle to gather evergreens to decorate the so-called hall. In the morning of the happy day the walls were hung with festoons of poppy-coloured muslin looped up with evergreens. At the back of the platform in coloured chalk on a red ground was the motto, "Think clear, feel deep," and facing the platform was another motto, "Pitch thy behaviour low, thy projects high." (What a terrible thing it would have been if the mottoes had been reversed!) Rows of fairy lamps were suspended beneath the mottoes and the gas globes were covered with poppy and lemon shades.

The President must have been touched by the warmth of his welcome, for even to us, reading of it to-day after the lapse of years, comes through something of the spontaneous and simple happiness which filled the School as it felt itself growing and almost daily entering into new adventures. Dr. Percival showed his interest by announcing that he wished to give a Scholarship to be held by girls in the Sixth Form.

In February, 1890, Mr. Tait was elected to the Council, so that within eight years of the beginning of the School we have on the Council our four benefactors who have given their names to our Houses, and I like to think that at the same time they were all working together for the making of the School. Reflection on this should help us to realize more than ever that our Houses are like a four-leaved clover, and that so long as we follow the traditions of our founders no disunion is possible.

This year is remarkable for the publication of the first School Magazine, which appeared in June under the editorship of Louie Graham. This contained a racy article from Edith Bancroft relating her experiences as a student at Cardiff University College, and many other literary and historical masterpieces—and all this for sixpence a copy.

The Prize Giving this July was held in the evening. The guests met beforehand at 7 p.m. for tea, and the Sixth Form were invited to join them. The proceedings proper began at 8.15. Mr. Prideaux was in the chair and Professor Lloyd Morgan, still I am glad to say one of our Vice-Presidents, distributed

the Prizes and Certificates. For the first time certificates were substituted for prizes in the Senior School by the wish of the girls themselves. Miss Cocks's report gave an encouraging account of the year's progress, and dwelt especially on the fact that many more girls were going on to the Universities from school. She rejoiced in the fact that the Sixth Form girls of the Redland High School had done much to disprove the old theory that a cultivated and well-educated girl was less fitted for family duties, and less capable of making a home bright and pleasant, than a girl who had had less education. She exemplified this by relating how the Sixth Form had devoted a Saturday holiday to painting the walls of their classroom. She referred to the fact that a separate Music Department had now been organized under Mr. and Mrs. Roeckel, and that Miss Hall had started a boarding house in connection with the School.

Professor Lloyd Morgan took "Womanliness" as the text of his address, and remarked hopefully that he did not believe that any intellectual training would crush out that grace which is part of the innate tendency of women; but he must have been made a little nervous by the excellent examination results, for he went on to say that a man pedant was bad enough, but a woman pedant was simply appalling. If he were forced to choose—which fortunately he was not—he should most certainly say, "Sympathy before conic sections." As these remarks were greeted with laughter and great applause by the girls, I think we may safely

assume that their sympathy and their conic sections were in their right places.

In September, 1890, an Upper Sixth Form was founded for post-matriculation work.

There was at this time a rule that all girls going to the swimming baths must wear the School swimming costume in the water ; so that in 1931, when we had a school bathing dress and thought ourselves very much up to date, we were only repeating history of forty years back.

In the School Magazine we find a searching article on " Our Athletic Sports." Members of the Tennis Club are reminded that they have more to do than merely pat balls into the air and rejoice when they fall on the far side of the net rather than the near ; and the Cricket Captain writes : " It is painful to relate that a cricket ball in motion is thought to be a subject rather to be avoided than attacked."

This autumn term was notable in two ways—one, Dr. Cook (now Sir Ernest), always a very good friend to the School, gave science lessons and most kindly lent a good deal of apparatus. The other event of the term was that Miss Cocks and Miss Baker took a party of eleven girls to Oxford for the half-term week-end. They did things in style and stayed at " The Mitre " and saw everything, putting American tourists of to-day absolutely in the shade.

In this year Edith Bancroft and Enid Stacey brought credit to Redland by being the first Old Girls to take the London B.A. degree. (London was then the only University which threw open its

degrees to women.) In the following January Miss Bancroft joined the staff of the School.

Enid Stacey devoted her life to social work, and we are proud to think that Redland gave education to one who did such pioneer work in connection with child welfare and the improvement of conditions for women workers.

In the spring term of 1891 Dr. Walker Dunbar gave a course of lectures on "Physical Training for Girls," a rather advanced subject to lecture on in those days; and for the first time the girls acted a French play.

In the summer term a Garden Party and Concert combined was held, and evidently people enjoyed themselves so much that they stayed a very long time, for I read that "when it got dusk the terrace was lighted up by fairy lanterns which shone on the brightly-coloured dresses of the visitors and girls." A Gallop March for twelve performers on three pianos appears to have been the *pièce de résistance* of the programme; they were evidently quite determined to be heard, and believed in team work in music. Another item was played by nine performers on three pianos.

Athletics must have made great strides during the year, for this summer the first Tennis Matches against other schools were played—Clifton High School and the Clergy Daughters' School—in both of which Redland came off victorious. It is also noted in the School Magazine for that term "that although a strong tendency to dreaming is manifest in the cricket field, there is a wonderful improvement since last year."

The Prize Giving at the end of this summer term was again held in a marquee on the lawn, and it is interesting to note that Mr. Herbert Thomas, who distributed the prizes, mentioned that for the large majority of those who left school only the avenues of domestic and ordinary English life were afterwards open ; but that he advocated whenever he could that all paths of learning and gates of industry should be open to women as well as to men, so long as the occupation was one appropriate to the sex. He was glad to say that during the last generation there had been a great advance in the higher education of women, and several who had been placed in important positions had shown that in ability and prudence they had been equal to the men, and in many instances they had actually excelled the male sex.

In the spring of 1892 the best tennis court was levelled, and this inspired the girls to ask for permission to level at their own expense the lower portion of the garden for a cricket pitch. This they were allowed to do in the autumn, and most energetically and happily did they ply the roller.

In March of this year the Bristol Town Council granted a sum of £500 towards a new hall and classrooms, and agreed to give an annual grant for the provision of special Science teaching. In return the School agreed to provide scholarships for girls coming from elementary schools.

In May Miss Cocks was elected to the Council of the new Day Training College in Bristol, which

shows that appreciation of her value was not confined to the School.

This summer the School suffered a great loss in the death of Miss Emily Sturge, who was thrown from her horse when out riding. Her loss was felt as a personal one by all in the School.

The year 1892 was a very satisfactory one for work. Five girls gained the London Matriculation and seven the Higher Certificate of the Joint Board. Stella Leach won an open Scholarship to Holloway College, and Edith Bartlett (now the Mrs. Murray who has in 1931 given us a talk on China) headed the list for Senior Scholarships at Bristol University College.

At the Prize Giving this year for the first time a woman distributed the prizes, Lady Aberdare, a pioneer of higher education for women.

In the autumn the Sixth Form took a great step upward and onward, for between it and the Fifth Form was founded a new Remove Form, and henceforth the Fourth Form was Middle and not Senior School.

Hockey was played for the first time this autumn, and the captain wrote in the Magazine: "For the edification of those, and they are many, who look upon hockey as a rough and dangerous game, be it said that no blood has been spilt nor terrible wounds received by our hockey players as yet."

This year we hear also of a little Choral Society which existed among the mistresses and senior girls. In December I find first mention of our time-honoured Christmas Party. In the dances at that time

those girls who volunteered to play the part of gentlemen wore tiny rosettes of white ribbon, and some of the dances were accompanied by violin and singing, and, to quote from the Magazine, "as always we ended with Auld Lang Syne."

During the Christmas holidays the School sustained a great loss in the death of Mr. F. M. Bartholomew, a member of Council for many years. He was, we are told, the first to suggest the idea of linking together, by means of scholarships, the Schools and the University College of Bristol, and was himself a generous contributor to the funds for this purpose.

In March, 1893, Miss Mary Wait (still happily one of our Vice-Presidents) was elected to the Council, and until she resigned in 1918 was an unflinching source of help and strength to the School.

Cricket is mentioned as the favourite game at this time. I am told that Clifton High School team included two daughters of W. G. Grace, so that the match against this School was the event of the season.

For the first time in the history of the School an Open Scholarship to Oxford was won by a Redland girl. Agnes Wilson gained a History Scholarship to St. Hugh's College.

In October, 1893, was formed "The Redland Old Girls' Club," the beginning of our Old Girls' Association. A Work Enquiry Office was organized in connection with the Club, and all who knew of any work to be done or wished to do any work were asked to send information to the Secretary.

The motion to form this Club was proposed by

Edith Bartlett and seconded by Ethel Lucas, both former Captains of the School, and the original officers were as follows :—

<i>Hon. President</i>	The Headmistress.
<i>Acting President</i>	Miss Bancroft.
<i>Secretary</i>	Winifred Walker.
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ethel Lucas.
<i>Secretaries of Work</i> }	.. Minnie Coates,
<i>Enquiry Office</i> }	.. Kate Stephens.

In November Mr. Edward Leonard, who had taught Drawing in the School for some time, was appointed Secretary to the Council, and continued to give much help in connection with the Art Department of the School. He also designed the cover for the School Magazine showing the entrance gates.

The record of successes in the South Kensington and Royal Drawing Society Examinations are a great tribute to Mr. Leonard and the other early Art teachers of Redland.

In April, 1894, the Council gave permission for "a superior piano to be hired for the use of a pupil of special promise." This, I imagine, was the ancestor of the mammoth grand piano recently acquired.

The inaugural conversazione of the Old Girls' Club was held during this month. I think it was the last function to be held in the stable-room called "Hall." The walls were again festooned with art muslin and glossy greenery, and fairy lamps hung round. (Poor old stables—decked as

for sacrifice!) There were then forty-one names on the roll of the Old Girls' Club.

This summer term there was a tennis match against Gloucester High School, and after the match the players were shown over the cathedral and entertained to tea by the Mayoress of Gloucester. (How important the team was in those days!)

Ten Higher Certificates of the Joint Board were gained this year, and five girls obtained London Matriculation. Lilian Leach took her London B.A. degree.

On Friday, 21st September, 1894, the School assembled in the new hall on the site of the old stables—though it was not yet quite as we have it now. To quote from a Magazine of the time: "A row of pillars divides the old portion from the new, and supports a gallery which is reached from below by a dainty staircase. Of the three new classrooms one can easily be converted into a charming stage fitted with footlights. Yes, we are proud of our new hall." When the hall was opened the Council voted £20 for furnishing the gallery (the hayloft!) as a Library for the Sixth Form, and for refurnishing the staff room.

In 1895 the Reference Library was started, and the lower asphalt court was made, so that now winter tennis as well as hockey could be played.

The first Old Girl to complete her course at Oxford was Mary Flamsteed, who took the Final Honour School of Modern Languages this year. Louie Snook and Annie Keen gained Catherine Winkworth Scholarships at Bristol.

During this year Mr. Alfred Tribe became Secretary to the Council, and remained so until his death in 1913, and to him the School owes a great deal for his arduous work behind the scenes with finance and business through many difficult times.

In February, 1896, Canon Prideaux, who had been the first Chairman of Council and had done so much devoted and pioneer work for the School for the first fourteen years of its life, retired from the Council, and Bishop Percival was elected in his stead. As, however, the latter was now Bishop of Hereford and could not often attend Council meetings, Mr. Urijah Thomas (ever ready to do any amount of work without wishing for any prominence) took his place at the meetings. Miss Elizabeth Sturge joined the Council, and the School gladly welcomed her, at first for her sister's sake, but soon for her own.

During the summer the new hall was painted, the pillars and ceiling yellow, and the walls a delicate green with a dado of dark blue.

In October the School Motto, "So Hateth She Derknesse," was chosen after many and varied and even amusing suggestions from staff and girls had been fully discussed, and the Daisy was adopted as the School flower.

The Bristol Town Council gave the School £100 to be spent on scientific apparatus, and Dr. Cook kindly expended the money to the best advantage.

Annie Keen won a Classical Scholarship to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, and her sister Edna a Catherine Winkworth Scholarship at Bristol. I think

the Keens must be called our most distinguished family of Old Girls, for the next year Edna was awarded the Hugh Conway Scholarship at Bristol, and Mary gained the Catherine Winkworth Scholarship in 1898, the John Stewart Scholarship the next year, and a Classical Scholarship to Lady Margaret Hall in 1900. Then again in 1901, a Catherine Winkworth Scholarship was won by Grace Keen. It is a very fine record, and Redland is proud of the Keens.

In November the President again came to distribute the prizes, and during the course of his speech was rash enough to offer advice to the girls on the subject of dress. The result of this was that Redland woke up to find itself famous, for his speech was reported in the London papers, and to the great joy of the girls there was a paragraph in *Punch* about it. One who was a girl at the time said: "We were so proud to think that our School had got into *Punch*." The reference in *Punch* is on 28th November, 1896, and is as follows:—

A BISHOP'S IDEAS ON LADIES' IDEALS.

The Bishop of Hereford, in distributing the prizes at the Redland Girls' High School at Bristol, as reported in the *Daily Telegraph*, said: "There was one ideal against which he ventured to warn young women, especially of the upper and middle classes, viz. the ideal of aping men's fashions and manners. He sometimes saw very smart young ladies in waistcoats and so on, which suggested imitation of men, and he always felt it was a mistake."

Miss Middlecrust is of opinion that this attack

comes with a very bad grace from a smart, middle-aged man who attires himself in "lawn sleeves," an "apron" and "so on," and she would like to know his feelings on that subject.

The Bishop himself, the next time he gave away the prizes, referred to this incident as a nasty experience which he had brought on himself by letting his tongue run away with him, and said the moral was that one should refrain from talking about things one knew nothing about, and in future he proposed to avoid all mention of ladies' dress.

In the Magazine which came out that autumn it is mentioned that Röntgen Rays were just beginning to be known and experimented with, and that the girls were thrilled by the news—evidence that healthy scientific curiosity was strong in the School. We also learn that stylographic pens were coming into fashion.

The following extract from this same Magazine will show how famous Redland High School had already become :—

REDLAND AND AMERICA.

A LINK BETWEEN THE OLD WORLD AND THE NEW.

An amusing incident occurred the other day showing the place Redland occupies in the education of the nation. A foreign letter, with the following address, was handed in by the postman at Redland Court :—

" To a Prominent Young Lady,
Bristol,
England."

The postman evidently considered that Redland

must be the home of prominence, since he brought it to us. The letter when opened read as follows:—

SARATOGA, INDIANA, U.S.A.,

8th September, 1896.

ASSUMED FRIEND :

I have been thinking how much pleasure it would be to correspond with someone in the Old Country. Last winter our school teacher was telling us about some school children of America corresponding with some school children of England, so I thought I would try it. I am anxious to know whether letters can be exchanged or not.

Please write as soon as you receive this. I will make my letter short this time, but if I receive an answer I will write more the next time.

Yours truly,

OLLIE SIPE.

Saratoga, Randolph (Co.), Indiana, U.S.A.

The following reply was sent to this letter :—

REDLAND HIGH SCHOOL,

REDLAND COURT,

BRISTOL,

6th October, 1896.

DEAR MISS SIPE :

It is a capital idea, we think, for school girls of the Old and New Countries to correspond with each other.

I represent the Sixth Form (that is, the top Form or Class) of the Redland High School, which is one of

the large higher public schools for girls in Bristol, and I write to say we shall be delighted to hear about the customs in your schools, and to give you our news in return, if you will tell us what you would like to know about us.

Yours truly, on behalf of the Sixth Form,

• Redland High School,

DOROTHY OVENDEN, Captain.

It was now possible to hold a regular School Concert in the new hall, and the first was held in April, 1897, in aid of chimes for the school clock. It was very successful, though not quite so exciting, I am sure, as those held in the garden with the massed pianoforte pieces for twenty-four hands !

July, 1897, was a gay and happy time for the School, whose enthusiasm and loyalty in celebrating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee could not have been excelled even at Court. Among other things there was a grand evening party, with a band of ten performers and four glee singers. The grounds were lavishly illuminated, the expense of the lighting being borne by the staff and girls at their own request.

In the results of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board Examination this year the School was second in England, a wonderful achievement when one considers that it (like some of the pupils who took the examination) was under sixteen years of age. Ten full and nine first part Higher Certificates were gained, and six girls passed London Matriculation.

In March, 1898, the School Orchestra was started by Mr. Harold Bernard, and in June Miss Dahl was appointed as part-time Swedish Drill Mistress, and the School owes her a great deal for the work she did during many years.

In July the first Commemoration Day was held, and it was indeed a happy day. It was decided that in future this should be held as near as possible to the 1st of July.

This year Alice Cardell gained her L.R.A.M., so that evidently the Music Department was as flourishing as the rest of the School.

By 1899 the numbers had reached 213, including 14 boarders. The public spirit of the School was very marked, and the girls felt strongly that they must help themselves, and if in need of something they must work to attain it, and not just wait to have it given to them. This year's concert was in aid of the asphaltting of the lower tennis court. This summer Hancock, the gardener, had to vacate his cottage in the grounds so that it could be used for an extra classroom. The girls again collected money among themselves for a grass tennis court, which was made out of the garden of the cottage.

In honour of the Queen's visit to Bristol in July, 1899, Mr. Tait gave the School a Union Jack to wave above us on gala days.

The School worked zealously for the soldiers who went out to South Africa during the Boer War. The girls knitted and sewed and also gave most generously of their pocket money, collecting a large sum of money for Mafeking, and Miss Cocks, with

great foresight, made an arrangement with the bank that as soon as Mafeking was relieved the Redland High School money should be put at the disposal of General Baden-Powell to use for the women and children of the town. A letter of thanks was received from the General, and the next year when the Rector of Mafeking (the Rev. W. H. Weekes) came home he visited the School to thank the girls and tell them about the siege, bringing with him samples of horse sausage and siege bread. Mrs. Bourke, now on the staff, was then a child in the School, and well remembers how the girls ran out and cheered the Rector as he went away. He has since visited us again as Dean of Bloemfontein and addressed the Missionary Guild in 1927.

In the Joint Board Examination the School was again second in England, and by September, 1899, the numbers were 222.

In the spring of 1900 the girls again collected money, this time for a school bell, and this is the one which still hangs on the wall and rings us in to prayers.

This July the School lost a devoted friend in Miss K. Baker, who had been Kindergarten Mistress since 1882. The many who, as children, were taught by her will need no words of mine to tell them how much they owe to her.

In October Miss Ida Deakin joined the staff as Kindergarten Mistress, to continue for twenty years and to make for herself a large place in the hearts of many children and parents, who will rejoice to know that she is living her life in Bermuda with

quite as much energy as she lived it at Redland, although her heart is still here.

The first suggestion that a proper Chemical Laboratory should be built was made at this time by Mr. Siepmann; and at the suggestion of Mr. Tait the Victoria Gold Medal was founded to commemorate the reign of Queen Victoria. It was first awarded in 1901 to Mary Butlin, and subsequently every year to the most distinguished girl in the School, until the Great War made it impossible to continue using gold for such a purpose.

In May, 1901, the School suffered an irreparable loss in the death of Urijah Thomas, our real founder. I cannot do better than quote from the letter signed by Bishop Percival and sent from the Council to the relatives: "The Redland High School for Girls grieves over his loss as that of a dear personal friend and an inspiring example of Christian loving-kindness. . . . While sorrowing that this School, like so many other good institutions in Bristol, is no longer to have the benefit of his counsel and support, we shall always gratefully think of him as its chief founder, and we trust that his name may long be held in honour and remain a living influence amongst us."

During this year Gordon and Wolverton Houses in Clarendon Road were bought for a boarding house and re-named St. Margaret's after the school flower. The School owes a debt of gratitude to Miss Cayley and Miss King for their devoted work in connection with the boarders in the early days, and subsequently to Miss Moore and Miss Bancroft.

In December Miss Cocks told the Council that with 238 pupils the School was really too full, and she obtained permission to move the Junior School and Kindergarten to the gardener's cottage.

In May, 1902, Mr. Gilmore Barnett was elected Chairman of the Council, an appointment which was greeted with great joy by the School.

For the celebration of King Edward's coronation the girls again collected the money for illuminating the grounds. What a pity we do not illuminate more now! They were always doing it in the old days—they did indeed "hate derknesse."

The autumn term was saddened by the serious illness of Miss Cocks. Her health had been poor for some time, but the force of her keen brain had never abated. During her absence Miss King and Miss Major Smith ably acted as "joint heads." In the following term, however, to the joy of the School, Miss Cocks was well enough to take up her work again.

In March Mr. Tait gave the playing field to the School, and in June it was first used for games. There is no need for me to dilate to the generations of girls who have delighted and still do delight in it upon the great boon this was to the School.

The year 1903 saw the building of the Laboratory and Art Room, towards the cost of which the Bristol Education Committee gave a grant of £300.

This year for the first time representatives of the city were put on the Council. Miss F. M. Townsend and Alderman W. W. Jose were the first of a long line of men and women who have served on the

Council ever since, and have given and do give most valuable help to the School. One out of many illustrations, showing how keen is the interest of these city members in the School, is the fact that the present Director of Education, Dr. Ludford Freeman, has for many years presented a prize for French.

Dr. Cook gave valuable advice and help in the fitting up of the Laboratory, and Mr. Ablett suggested the shelf with plaster casts for the Art Room. These were very much admired at the time, and it is sad to think how despised they are now! The mistresses and girls subscribed £25 for the decoration of the new Art Room, and friends of Redland in South Africa, led by Miss E. King, also sent a donation for this purpose. Another generous gift of £100 came from Mr. Edward Robinson.

This year the School came of age, and all who loved it showed their affection in a tangible way by generous gifts. Miss Cocks gave the pictures which still hang in the hall. The staff, past and present, gave the beautiful chair and table, made out of oak from the old Deanery, which stand on the platform. The chair, of which ours is a copy, belonged to the Skinners' Company, and the original may be seen in the Bristol Art Gallery. The Girls' contribution was the carving of the school motto and flower over the door of the hall, while the Old Girls subscribed towards the furnishing of the Art Room.

In 1904 Mr. Tait resigned from the Council, and the Rev. John Gamble, Vicar of St. Mary's, Leigh

Woods, took his place. I find a note about this time that the garden was left in charge of the mistresses, who might employ what labour they liked provided that they did not spend more than £22 a year. The value of the new Art Room was proved by the fact that Maud Thatcher and Gertrude Abraham won Art Scholarships at South Kensington.

The chief event of 1906 was the recognition of the School by the Board of Education, and the attendant inspections, which were greatly enjoyed in retrospect, when it was found that the inspectors had nothing but good to say. In fact, what they said was that they did not desire to interfere with the individuality of the School. Its success had justified its policy, and they were much impressed with the good work done. I see that after reading this report the Council decided to hold no further meeting for a month, but I don't read that they gave the School a holiday too !

The telephone was first installed in School in this year.

Several Old Girls distinguished themselves in 1906. Elizabeth Rich won the Capper Pass Metallurgical Scholarship at Bristol, May Lee was the Gold Medallist of the National Physical Recreation Society, and Lilian Ellis won a Scholarship at Holloway College.

During this year the Honours Boards were started, and it may be interesting to note that Mr. D. A. Phillips, who inscribed the first name in 1906, has done the lettering ever since.

II

1907—1920

IN the spring of 1907 the sad blow came to the School that Miss Cocks would have to resign in the summer owing to her failing health, in spite of which she had so bravely struggled on. In May the School celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary, and it seems to us, looking back on the history of that first twenty-five years of the School, that it was a marvellous record of progress and achievement. As the inspectors had felt when noting the remarkable success of the School, it was mainly due to Miss Cocks's energy and devotion and to the influence of her personality. This summer, Miss Cocks's last, the School took the highest place among girls' schools in the country in the Joint Board Higher Certificate Examination, gaining fourteen full certificates and ten first part certificates at one sitting. This must have been because the girls did their examination in such a peaceful atmosphere. I find a minute of the Council at this time that "the transfer of bees must be delayed until the examinations are over." The bees, presumably, were kept for example's sake!

At the end of the term, instead of having their annual picnic, the Sixth Form were taken by Miss Cocks and Miss Moore to Oxford for the day.

Their enjoyment of all the sights of Oxford was greatly enhanced by seeing many of the performers in the Oxford Pageant strolling about the city in their costumes.

No one who was in the School at the time will ever forget the last days of Miss Cocks's headship. In her farewell speech to the School she very characteristically reminded them that as she had often said, success is not due to having all circumstances in one's favour. The School had often had a good lesson given with the aid of a very poor blackboard, but she hoped it would never be said that a magnificent blackboard contributed to a poor lesson. Mr. Gilmore Barnett as Chairman, writing to Miss Cocks on her departure, said: "We can best show our appreciation and gratitude by sparing no effort to keep the School for which you have done so much in the place in which you have left it." Bishop Percival, speaking at the Prize Giving of 1907, said that they were in a School which owed almost everything to the personality of the teacher. I could quote from endless tributes paid to Miss Cocks, but will confine myself to that which her successor, Miss Shekleton, paid. She said: "One was most struck by the big lines on which her character was formed." She was indeed, as the words from her favourite poem, inscribed on her portrait in the School Hall say: "One who never turned (her) back but marched breast forward." She died in the following year, having accomplished her life work in the making of Redland High School.

The attendance at the Memorial Service held in



EMILY A. A. SHEKLETON

Headmistress 1907-1920

St. Mary's Church, Leigh Woods, testified to the place she had held in the esteem of many people outside the School.

Miss Shekleton came to Redland in September, 1907, from Bath High School, where she had been Headmistress. This year the School first received a regular grant from the Board of Education, and in return agreed to admit each year a regular percentage of scholars from the elementary schools of the city.

In March, 1908, the School suffered another great loss, for Mr. Gilmore Barnett died after having been Chairman for twelve years. It was said of him at the time: "His generous services to the School covered many years and were marked by great wisdom, zeal and kindness." A Memorial Service was held in the School Hall on the day of his funeral, 21st March, and was conducted by Mr. Gamble and Principal Henderson. These two losses made this a very sad year—no, not sad, for it left Redland High School for all time richer for the memory and influence of those two great people, Miss Cocks and Mr. Gilmore Barnett.

In April Mr. Gamble was elected Chairman of the Council, and during the twenty-one years in which he held the office he hardly ever missed a meeting.

To the great excitement of all in the School the Queen Anne Arbour below the Terrace was discovered this summer. It had been walled up probably since the time when the present house was built, and we are very thankful to have it as a link with the past.

At this time the girls were showing a keen interest in social service, and adopted St. Agnes' Girls' Club as a regular School charity, which they continued to support for many years.

Dr. R. O. Beachcroft joined the staff as Singing Master, and in 1911 became Director of Music. The Music Department of the School owes him a debt of gratitude for all the distinguished work he did for it until he left in 1926.

Mr. Hugo Mallet joined the Council this year, and we rejoice that he is still a member, and now after twenty-three years may claim to be the "Father" of the School.

Mrs. Gilmore Barnett also consented to be elected, and the School welcomed her coming as a link with the past. Although she was not able to remain on the Council for long, her interest in the School has never waned.

No startling event took place in 1909. The Bishop of Bristol presided at the Prize Giving and specially commented on the spirit of brightness in the School. "No wonder," he said, "for look at its position. I only wish my palace stood here." (This was before the present palace was built.) On the same occasion Miss Shekleton in her report said: "Redland High School has never been a showy School. We have always cared more for persons than for things."

In the autumn the Kindergarten Training Department was started under Miss Ida Deakin, to train students for the Higher Certificate of the National Froebel Union.

This year the Charter of the University of Bristol was granted, and the new University was welcomed with joy by Redland High School, to so many of whose Old Girls it has given their higher education.

The year 1910 saw the beginning of the building of the new wing with the Cocks Memorial Library subscribed to by present and past members of the School and friends of Miss Cocks, the tablet being presented by the Old Girls. It was unanimously felt that a Library was the most appropriate form that a memorial to Miss Cocks could take. There was also the new large Classroom, the Domestic Science Room, the Middle School Cloakroom, and the Entrance Porch to the Hall. The architect was Mr. (now Sir George) Oatley, who, fortunately for us, is repeating history in 1932 over the next new building.

A basket ball set for the Junior School was purchased in July, 1910—this is the first we hear of our Netball.

In December Miss Bancroft left to become Headmistress of Chelmsford High School. Although her appointment was an occasion of great rejoicing, her departure left a grievous blank, for, with the exception of the three years spent at Cardiff, she had been in the School as pupil and mistress since 1883.

The year 1911 must have been very much like the year 1931—the same excitement over building, the same putting up with inconveniences and living in hope. King George's coronation was celebrated with enthusiasm at Redland High School. The flag

was hoisted and the grounds were illuminated with fairy lights.

Our first Old Girl to finish her course at Cambridge was Enid St. John, who this year took the Natural Sciences Tripos. Eva Lee took her M.Sc. degree at Bristol; and the firstfruits of the Kindergarten Training Department appeared, for two students gained the Higher Certificate of the National Froebel Union.

In September Miss Cove joined the staff. I cannot do her full justice as fortunately she is still with us, and the Old Girls who come back for the Jubilee will rejoice to find her throwing herself as heartily as ever into all the activities of the School, musical and otherwise.

In October the new wing was in use, though the formal opening did not take place until the following spring. March 29th, 1912, was the great day. The President of Magdalen College, Oxford, Dr. T. H. Warren, performed the opening ceremony, and in the course of his speech said that Redland Court had many memories for him; he remembered it as long as he could remember anything; he used to wander over the estate of what seemed to him interminable fields when he was a child. He remembered the avenue with the romantic name, Lovers' Walk, leading up to the house, and the impression made upon his childish mind by the dignity of that splendid home—the reposeful dignity and happy decorum of the eighteenth century. He hoped the girls took a pride in Redland Court estate. It was built to be the happy and dignified

home of a cultured and well-spent life, and he hoped they would always feel it was a home, and a home of which they were proud. One of the most delightful and hopeful things about a school was that it was a second home. He ended his speech by telling them that a truly educated person was one who tried to understand the past, the present, and the future. It is a strange coincidence that Mr. Gamble in his speech on this occasion expressed the hope that someone would bequeath his library to the School to fill the beautiful new room, and that the largest bequest of books we have had has been his own of 560 volumes some seventeen years later.

During the summer term the School sadly missed Miss Shekleton, who was away in South Africa for reasons of health. She was joyfully welcomed back in September. Miss Moore took her place with such success and apparently with such enjoyment that she was appointed a Headmistress herself and left in July to go to Trowbridge High School. She left after thirteen years' devoted service to the School, followed by the gratitude and congratulations of all its members.

This Christmas Miss Deakin organized an Old Girls' Dance, which realized thirteen guineas for books for the Library. During 1913 Miss Shekleton gave one bookcase and a number of books; Mr. Gamble another with 100 books; and many other members of Council and friends (notably Miss Lily Wills, Miss Wait and Mr. Mallet) presented books. The School collected money for yet another bookcase, and from that time onwards the Old

Girls have given generously to the Library. It is a tradition that the senior girls present a book or books when they leave, so that apart from the money spent on it by the Council, the Library is always growing through the gifts of those who love it. To anticipate—within the last few years we have had the *Cambridge Mediæval and Modern History* under Miss Alice Gardner's will, and the collection of valuable books referred to above from Canon Gamble's Library. Our latest acquisitions of note are the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, bought out of the proceeds of a Sale of Work, and the *New English Dictionary*, bought with money collected and earned by the efforts of Miss Andrews. I cannot leave the subject of the Library without referring to the work done in it by the Librarians—work which we take for granted but for which we are no less grateful—Miss Lees who first undertook the arduous task of cataloguing the books in 1914, and Miss Weekes, who from 1917 onwards has stamped, labelled and catalogued every book that has come in—no light task when we learn that the total number of books has now reached nearly three thousand.

I must now return to 1913. In January Mr. Tait died and the School mourned another faithful friend and generous benefactor whose name will ever be remembered and honoured.

This summer Miss Edith Pritchett, who for twenty-three years of her life had given devoted service in the Junior School and afterwards in the Boarding House, left owing to failing health.

The Old Girls again achieved much distinction in this year's examination results. Kathleen Cole was the first to complete a Medical Degree by taking the M.B., Ch.B. of Bristol. Rosabel Armstrong and Dora Ibberson both gained First Class Honours in the B.A. of Bristol and in the Mediæval and Modern Languages School at Oxford respectively. Phyllis Borthwick took her M.Sc. at Bristol.

In the autumn, on the death of Mr. Tribe, the writer was appointed Clerk to the Council as well as School Secretary. Her excuse for mentioning this fact is that it seems to mark progress in women's work, as the Clerk to the Council had previously been a man.

By now the numbers in the School had reached 300, and I can well remember our excitement over this achievement. Two decisions were made this autumn which delighted the girls; the first, that the Senior Remove should be the Matriculation Form, and that the Sixth should be kept entirely for Post Matriculation work; and the other, that the Lower Certificate Examination should be discontinued, and that henceforth the Fifth Form should take no public examination.

We now come to 1914, that fateful year which none of us older ones will ever forget. In June, before the shadow of the war fell upon us, the Headmistresses' Conference was held at Redland—a great honour for the School, and a time of great enjoyment for the staff and girls. It has not met at Bristol since, until 1931, when it was held at Clifton High School.

Edna Hobbs gained First Class Honours in the Final Honour School of Science, Oxford, and Ethel Gath was the first Old Girl to take the Bristol M.A. Degree.

That summer was erected the cycle shed which has now just been swept away in the hope of something better, but let us raise a cheer with its passing, for it has performed yeoman service for thousands of bicycles. Also at this time, to everyone's relief, the main building was fitted with electric light. Thus the School took another step towards living up to its motto.

The years of the Great War are still vivid to all who lived through them, and I know that to many Old Girls, when they think of Miss Shekleton, her picture comes back in the setting of those years. No one who was there can ever forget her enthusiasm and her sympathy. She was determined that the School and every member of it should do their share. We educated Belgian Refugees; we abolished prizes and gave money to war funds; we had weekly collections into which most of our pocket money went. During one term alone we subscribed £67 10s. for the Star and Garter Fund. We had working parties at which we cut out shirts, sewed, knitted (and talked !). We collected—what didn't we collect?—all our rooms were full of collections. There were clothes, old tins, silver paper, silver thimbles for the Ambulance Fund, foxglove leaves and horse chestnuts (for mysterious conversion into gunpowder we believed). Well do I remember a huge sack of horse chestnuts, brought one Monday

morning by two eager collectors, bursting (accidentally of course!) outside the office door, and the ardour with which almost the whole School ran after the rolling chestnuts. The School joined the Patriotic Union of Girls' Schools and offered its services to the Bristol Branch of the Red Cross, and through them furnished all towels and cloths for the Extra Enteric Ward at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, several hundreds of articles in all. We entertained seventy wounded soldiers to tea in the hall and the Junior School acted *Snow White and the Dwarfs*, which was much appreciated. Two huge trunks and twenty-five large parcels of clothes were dispatched for the Belgian Refugees; sweaters and golf coats to "John Penoyre"; blue and khaki mufflers for the Navy and the Army; books, cigarettes, stamped envelopes and paper for men at the front. At Christmas-time the Cookery Class made plum puddings and sent them out to our popular Inspector, Colonel G. H. Cookson, for the men of his regiment. We ran a War Savings Association in School; we adopted a prisoner of war and sent him parcels regularly. We went forth in bands armed with spades, shovels and brooms, and swept the snow from all the roads adjoining us! A choir was formed in connection with the National Carol League and went out at nights singing carols; Miss Shekleton herself held the lantern and led the choir, which made a large sum of money in aid of St. Dunstan's.

I may seem to be writing very lightly of these years, but that is only because the real memory

of the time is too deep for words. The war drew us all very close together at Redland, and the Intercession Services taken by Miss Shekleton and so well attended proved a real source of help and comfort to those in sorrow and anxiety. One who was a girl in the School at the time said of Miss Shekleton: "No one will ever forget the joy in her face at the Armistice Service on 11th November, 1918, as she sang, 'Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore Him.'"

Ethel Edwards brought distinction to the School in 1916 by being top of all England in the Cambridge Higher Local Examination, in which she took First Class Honours with distinction in Mathematics and Science, gaining a special £5 prize. She also won an Open Scholarship to Newnham College in Mathematics and Science. She followed up this early promise by becoming a Wrangler in 1919.

In July, 1917, we had to say good-bye to Miss Lees, whose energy and efficiency had done so much for the School. She was appointed Headmistress of Birkenhead High School.

In September we had our first full-time Physical Training Mistress, Miss Squire. Our numbers had reached 350, including 33 boarders.

October 30th, 1917, has become a very well-known date, for the four Houses were founded on that day. The suggestion came from the girls themselves. They went to Miss Shekleton with their ideas, and were received, as always, with warm understanding. Some of the Sixth Form paid a visit to Sunnyhill School, Bruton, where the House system was

already established, and then on 30th October the whole School assembled in the hall with the Sixth Form on the platform, and the Captain and other members of the Upper Sixth addressed the School. The proposal to establish Houses was received with enthusiasm. What has been already said will be sufficient explanation of the choice of names for the Houses.

The School voted for the first four Captains, who were elected as follows :—

GILMORE BARNETT HOUSE	Phyllis Maggs.
PERCIVAL HOUSE	Cicely Wilson.
TAIT HOUSE	Madge Fowler.
URIJAH THOMAS HOUSE ..	Enid Gibbon.

To Miss Shekleton and these first Captains is due in a large measure the spirit which has animated the Houses all through the years—the spirit that has drawn the older and younger girls together and contributed to that friendly feeling between staff and girls which has always been such a vital part of Redland.

As one of the girls herself wrote: “The Houses have made concrete many a girl’s sense of *esprit de corps*, and have given her a definite part to play in her quarter of the big whole.”

Gilmore Barnett and Tait Houses have been and are particularly fortunate in having the continued interest and support of Mrs. Gilmore Barnett and Mrs. Tait.

During this year the Sixth Form Girls began to help at the Moorfields Play Centre for two evenings

a week. That they were successful is shown, I think, by the story told that the little ones used to ask: "Are the ladies from the High School coming to-night?" and utter a long-drawn "Oh-h-h!" if the answer was in the negative.

In January, 1918, Biology Classes were started for two Sixth Form girls preparing for the first Medical Examination. We had no extra laboratory, so the classes had to be held in the attics. The music staff at least will remember this adventure, and the dog-fish, etc., kept on the roof between lessons, whose aroma floated into the music rooms, and perhaps Dr. Cicely Wilson in far-off Mandalay may remember how we used to sniff when she came along the passage with the scent clinging to her overall! Lack of accommodation never daunted Miss Shekleton, nor has it ever prevented Redland High School from doing the best work. The School has cut its teeth by biting upon the crusts of difficulty, and grown strong and healthy in consequence. It has been fortunate and happy in not having everything it wanted given to it at once.

In July Gilmore Barnett and Urijah Thomas Houses had a Bazaar for War Funds, and this year the House Competitions were started—the first one being the Musical Competition judged by Mr. Peppin, an old friend of the School. Urijah Thomas House (appropriately, I think) was the first to win a House Shield.

Edna Thomas gained First Class Honours in the Final School of Modern Languages at Oxford,

Lilian Tonkin repeated exactly Ethel Edwards's performance of 1916 in the Cambridge Higher Local, and gained a Clothworkers' Scholarship to Newnham College. Enid Gibbon gained the Pfeiffer Scholarship to Bedford College, London, also for Mathematics and Science.

I have already referred to the signing of the Armistice, which dwarfed all other events in 1918, and Redland felt very proud when the news came that amongst the many Old Girls and Staff who had done valuable work in war service at home and abroad Winnie Blacker was singled out for "Bravery in removing the French wounded under fire" and awarded the "Croix de Guerre." May Niehus was specially mentioned in the Red Cross Society's Report, and Winnie Simpson was mentioned by the Secretary of State for War for "valuable Red Cross services."

This autumn was also notable in the history of the School for the starting of "Advanced Courses"—a familiar phrase glibly uttered many times a day now. At the time it was a great adventure, and it was thanks to the enterprise and public spirit of Miss Shekleton and Miss Sparks that Redland and Colston were able to share Advanced Courses both in "Arts" and in "Mathematics and Science," instead of each School only being able to work for the Higher Certificate in one of the courses. This arrangement is still working in 1932, with a time-table almost identical with the one drawn up when the courses were started.

The School was so full in 1918 that it was found

necessary to limit the numbers to 390 until further accommodation could be provided, and many would-be entrants had to be refused. In fact, the pressure was so great that No. 19 Clarendon Road was actually bought to be used as a Junior School, but before the purchase money was paid over it was discovered that the covenant prevented the house from being used as a School, so that negotiations had to be abandoned. Since then the accommodation problem has been ever with us, and many and varied have been the schemes drawn up. The problem is only now being solved by the buildings in process of erection as I write.

During the year the School suffered two losses, one in the retirement of Miss Rands, who had for fifteen years instilled a real love of art into innumerable girls, and lightened the atmosphere of the Staff Room with her spontaneous and unconventional humour. The other loss was in the death of Bishop Percival, and Redland will never forget its first President, to whose distinguished leadership the School owed so much of its early success. He was a man of fearless courage and principle, as is illustrated by the fact that when Lord Rosebery, Prime Minister, won the Derby, Dr. Percival wrote to *The Times* protesting against our Ministers indulging in horse racing. The Prime Minister, we are told, retorted by offering him the Bishopric of Hereford, which shows how much his courage was respected. Dr. A. L. Smith, Master of Balliol College, Oxford, succeeded Bishop Percival as President of the School. He had distributed the

prizes in 1916, so that the School was able to welcome him as a friend.

In the spring term of 1919 the "Field Club" was started, and ever since has pursued its career with great energy; not confining itself by any means to "Fields," but embracing in its world-wide interests factories, cathedrals, gas and electric works, telephone exchanges, prehistoric, druidical and Roman sites—in fact, everything all over the world and under the sun.

In April the first House Gymnastic Competition took place, and we learn from a current magazine that teams of the slimmest and most agile members of the Houses were chosen. Slim in body they may have been, but very stout of heart they certainly were. The victor was Tait House. Altogether, by this time the activities of the Houses were in full swing. Percival and Tait Houses organized a very successful Garden Fête this summer, by which they made £72, which they divided between the children of blinded soldiers and the Moorfields Play Centre. This fête, like the bazaar in the previous year, was entirely and efficiently run by the girls themselves. The four Houses also adopted two children under the "Save the Children" Fund, a scheme which is still in operation.

During 1919 the Kindergarten Training Department, which for many years had done successful work in the training of students, was affiliated to the University of Bristol and recognized by the Teachers' Registration Council.

Grace Telling gained her B.Sc. of Bristol with

First Class Honours. She also has fulfilled her early promise, for at the present time she is a Fellow and Lecturer of Newnham College, and has published Mathematical Articles in the *Proceedings* of the Cambridge Philosophical Society and of the Royal Society. The titles of these articles are too learned for me to attempt to reproduce them here.

The School Magazine was revived this year after an unexplained silence of some years, and it is interesting to note that Miss Bancroft, who had written an article in the first number issued in 1890, also contributed one to the resuscitated magazine.

In the summer great excitement was caused by the discovery of an Elizabethan well under the floor of the Secretary's office. That official was quietly working at her desk, when she suddenly felt the legs of her chair going through the floor. She got away in time (I am afraid I cannot truthfully say that her life was in real danger!) and sent for Mr. Walker (so often a friend in need) to repair the rotten boards. On pulling them away he discovered a well some ninety feet deep. The excitement was great, and most of the School watched (in relays) a candle being let down and down on the end of a rope, until it finally reached the water and was put out. Nearly everyone threw a pebble down, too, and listened to the far-off splash! The well is still there, but safely covered over with concrete, so that there is no chance of a detective drama being enacted in the office now.

Dr. Peake, one of the parents, got up a concert

in aid of the Library, and handed over £50, which was gratefully spent on books.

In December, 1919, Miss H. M. Wright, who for eight years had been such an able Second Mistress—a post which was no sinecure, especially during the war years—was appointed Headmistress of the Guildford County School for Girls. Her departure left a grievous blank, though the way in which everyone rejoiced in her promotion was abundant evidence of the place she occupied in the affection of every member of the School.

The School lost another good friend this year in the retirement from the Council of Mr. J. K. Champion, who for fifteen years had taken the keenest interest in all its doings, and given much help and advice in the realm of finance. For many years he had been Honorary Auditor to the School.

In July, 1920, the Council purchased an old army hut and installed it in the Playing Field as a pavilion, to the great delight of the girls; whereupon Miss Squire, helped by other members of the Staff and Old Girls, got up a dramatic entertainment, the proceeds of which fitted up the pavilion with everything that the hearts of the teams (in those days!) could desire.

Miss Freer swelled the ranks of Redland headmistresses by being appointed to St. George's School, Edinburgh.

The present girls this year gave a very spirited and successful presentation of *The Rivals*, and the audience really felt themselves back in Sheridan's time and circle.

III

1920—1926

IN the autumn term the School received the news that Miss Shekleton, who for some time had been valiantly struggling against pain and ill health, would be leaving at the end of the term. There is no doubt that the strain of carrying on the School through the years of the war, especially to one so abundantly endowed with sympathy, had worn out Miss Shekleton's health. Like her predecessor, Miss Cocks, she had given her whole self to the School, and like her, she did not live long after her life work was finished. Space will only permit of my quoting small extracts from the many tributes paid to her, and I have chosen one from the past, the present and the future. Miss Bancroft wrote: "How wisely she respected the School as a living thing, whose personality she carefully studied in order that she might help it to preserve its individuality and to do its best work!" The Captain of the School, Marian Holmes, wrote: "Miss Shekleton was a friend of every girl in the School. . . . Her understanding and insight were wonderful, and she could very often tell us what our feelings were before we could find words to express them ourselves." Miss Edghill, her successor, wrote of her when she died: "For thirteen years she gave herself unremittingly to the two-fold task of

conserving the best traditions of the School to which she came, and of adapting its methods and character to meet rapidly changing conditions and new needs. She was always prepared to welcome new developments, always ready for adventure, yet never unmindful of the value of the ideas and conclusions of a former generation. The social side of the life of the School received from her its inspiration, and it is not too much to say that she imparted to it some of her graciousness, an indefinable yet very palpable quality which all who love Redland will always cherish—a quality which, to speak personally, when first I got to know Redland, I could not but feel and recognize quite easily as due to her personality.” Miss Edghill went on to say that two other outstanding qualities of Miss Shekleton had impressed themselves on all who knew her—“her generosity of spirit not only in giving, but generosity of attitude to others; there was nothing petty nor grudging about her. . . . Then, too, her indomitable courage,” and she ended her tribute, “Her work was based wholly on a spiritual conception and valuation of life.”

I have quoted Miss Edghill at length for two reasons; the first, because the three qualities she picked out, “graciousness, generosity of spirit, and courage,” are those which all of us who knew Miss Shekleton realized so strongly; and secondly, because there could be no greater tribute to the character of the writer herself than this understanding of her predecessor. Miss Edghill won our hearts from the first by her appreciation of the past and her love of

the old building. She showed this in her first Prize Giving report, when she said: "The Redland High School girls grow up in such an atmosphere that when the time for leave-taking arrives, they set off along the road still possessed of the inspiration that comes from contact with places of ancient beauty."

Miss Edghill, who was Headmistress of the King's High School, Warwick, was not able to come to Redland until the summer term, 1921, so Miss Enid St. John acted as Headmistress during the interim, and piloted the School through the difficult time of change safely into Miss Edghill's hands. As Second Mistress for the first term, Miss St. John was able to give much help out of her experience, springing from a three-fold source, as an Old Girl, a Second Mistress and an Acting Headmistress.

This spring the School joined the League of Nations Union, thereby adding to the list of activities which still flourish in the most lively condition. The School has a special link with the League of Nations, for Connie Harris, one of our Old Girls, has been in the Secretariat of the League at Geneva ever since 1919.

Marjorie Wadsworth took the M.B., Ch.B. of Bristol with First Class Honours.

During this year Redland adopted a School in one of the devastated areas of France, Gouy sous Bellone, and mothered it until it was re-established on a firm footing of its own.

In January, 1922, the courtyard was asphalted to make provision for more games, and the prowess of the netball teams in recent years is an eloquent testimony to the value of this extra ground.



ELLA MARY EDGHILL

Headmistress 1921-1926

After a general inspection, which took place in May of this year, the inspectors, in spite of their having been entertained at a very good luncheon prepared by the Cookery Class, felt compelled to recommend that the Domestic Science Room should be converted into an additional Laboratory, which resulted in the cookery and laundry work being given up for the time being.

This summer, as a reaction after the inspection, Gilmore Barnett and Urijah Thomas Houses organized another successful Fête, and out of the proceeds gave £55 towards repairing the stone parapet and a large sum to the school charities.

The Leaving Scholarship Fund was started by Miss Edghill, and subsequently converted by the wish of the Old Girls into the Shekleton Memorial Scholarship, a most appropriate form of commemoration. To anticipate—this fund reached £1,000 before it was closed, and a Shekleton Scholarship of £50 a year for three years is now awarded every third year to a girl proceeding to any of the Universities.

Altogether 1922 was a very active year, for still more things happened. The Inter - Form Competitions in Games and Gymnastics were first held ; and the Games becoming still more flourishing, an arrangement was made with Colston's Girls' School to use their field on two or three afternoons a week.

Then the School adopted a proper uniform dress. School uniform had been coming on in bits for years—here a hat band, there a tunic, somewhere

else a "dap" — but from this time forward uniform dress was made compulsory, and the attractive blazers which we have got used to but still admire were introduced, and the School became all green (only outwardly, of course).

Enid Gibbon took the London B.Sc. and Millicent King the Bristol B.Sc., both with First Class Honours. Millicent King followed up this success by taking the Ph.D. of Bristol in 1927.

This year, too, Mr. Gamble, our Chairman, was made Canon of Bristol Cathedral, and although he himself never cared for any title, the School proudly used it from the first. We lost two friends from our midst — Miss Jackson, who on being appointed to Halstead Grammar School, made the sixteenth headmistress given to the world by Redland High School; and Miss Ida Deakin (to whom I have already referred), whose health was no longer equal to the strenuous and devoted work she had done at Redland for twenty years.

In 1923 the first big Fête for the whole School was held, the four Houses deciding to combine. It was indeed a gallant show, and a large sum was raised for the Leaving Scholarship Fund. The Old Girls' Association adopted blazers and new badges. The School Senate was instituted this summer, and the senior girls, with Miss Edghill presiding, discussed most weighty and serious affairs in connection with self-government — a measure of which in the School Miss Edghill, like her predecessors, most ardently supported.

There were then 390 girls, so it can readily be

imagined that the accommodation problem again loomed large, and it was temporarily helped out by the acquisition of another Army Hut, which was erected near the Library windows and made into a home for the Kindergarten students. Poor despised little hut—but even now in 1932, when we are having wonderful new buildings, you are not going to be superannuated, but you have a new home and a still useful life before you down below the parapet!

This September a second Gymnastic Mistress was appointed for part-time work, as with the School so full Miss Squire could not cope with all the Physical Training required to maintain the high standard to which her abounding energy and enthusiasm had brought this department.

In 1924 a wireless set was established in the Science Room. This has given much pleasure and instruction, and in 1930 we were fortunate enough to be presented with another set by a kind friend of the School who wished to remain anonymous.

We regretfully said good-bye to Mrs. Kirk, whom we congratulated on her appointment as Head-mistress of Derby High School. During this year also the School received with much regret the news of the death of the President, the Master of Balliol.

Mary Westcott gained the degree of B.Litt., Oxford.

The other chief event of this year was the acting of *The Taming of the Shrew*, which, as someone said at the time, was produced in a way that was no insult to Shakespeare.

The year 1925 was chiefly conspicuous for the

distinguished examination successes. Leslie Sweet won an Open Scholarship in History at Lady Margaret Hall, and was also the first Redland High School girl to win one of the newly-established State Scholarships. Among the Old Girls, Evelyn Laing, D.Sc. (now Mrs. McBain) was awarded from America the Ellen Richards International Research Prize for her work on the "Conduction of Electricity in Jellies." This sounds very learned, as indeed it was; but to the unscientific mind it is strange that jellies still wobble as much as they did before Evelyn Laing turned them inside out. However, I am sure that is not her fault, and does not detract from her distinction, for she was the first Englishwoman to gain this high award. That these two names I have mentioned are not isolated, but only indicative of the flourishing state of the work at the time, was shown by the paragraph in Miss Edghill's report that year, which said that five Old Girls were at Oxford, two at Cambridge, one at Bedford College, London, and between thirty and forty at the University of Bristol.

The Bishop of Liverpool, Dr. David, consented to become President of the School, to the great delight of all its members. We are very fortunate in still having him at our head.

The whole of the outside of the front of the School was renovated during this year. Some of us felt rather sorry when we thought the "antique" look was going to be taken away, but the work was so skilfully carried out under the direction of Sir George Oatley, that we were quite reconciled when we saw the result.

IV

1926—1931

IN July, 1926, the School suffered a grievous loss in the departure of Miss Edghill, though, true to her standard to the end, she would not allow any shadow of sadness to be cast upon the School. She kept us happy to the end, as she had made us happy through her time of headship. During her last term we had another big Fête, and the whole School threw themselves heart and soul into this effort, which was a tremendous success, making a clear profit of £240, which was divided between the Shekleton Scholarship Fund and school charities. Our sadness at Miss Edghill's going was tempered by the fact that we could whole-heartedly rejoice that Redland had given a Headmistress to one of the most important Girls' Public Schools in England, and we congratulated Miss Edghill and St. Felix School, Southwold, on her appointment. In her letter of farewell to the School she proclaimed her own ideals when she said: "Goodwill and sacrifice, subordination of the private to the common good—this spirit has always been strong at Redland High School." The Captain of the School, Nancy Shearn, expressed the feelings of us all when she said of Miss Edghill: "Her graciousness and integrity will always be an inspiration. We shall never forget

her enthusiasm and the ideal of true comradeship which she has given us."

In September, 1926, Miss Taylor came to Redland, having been Headmistress of Northampton School for Girls and also for several years on the staff of that great School, St. Paul's Girls' School. When we heard that she was appointed we felt that we should indeed have a worthy successor to the three Headmistresses who had gone before, and Miss Taylor was welcomed with all the warmth that springs from love of the past combined with great hopefulness for the future. She was, I think, as many other people had been, struck by the happy and friendly spirit of the School.

In the autumn of this year the Missionary Guild was formed by four members of the staff belonging to different sections of the Church, and it received, and still receives, very warm support from the girls.

In December the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University (the Rev. G. A. Weekes) honoured us by distributing the prizes. At the end of his speech he said that he was glad to see from the motto at the end of the Hall that the School hated darkness, and he hoped that we should always hate the darkness that is ignorance and the darkness that is fear. Miss Haslehurst has commemorated his address by using some of his words in the School Song which she composed during the following summer. We were and are indeed grateful to Miss Haslehurst for this song written round our School Motto, and to our Director of Music, Mr. W. E. Smith. It is an honour for us that the music



CLARA MILLICENT TAYLOR

Headmistress from 1926

of the song has been written by one of Bristol's well-known composers. This song, which we sing now at every Prize Giving and on other special occasions, has filled for the School a long-felt want.

During 1927 great improvements were made in the garden through the kindness of Miss Hilda Wills and Canon Gamble. The shrubs at the bottom of the garden were cleared away to give the School an uninterrupted view of the gate and the long avenue by Cotham Gardens (at one time part of the estate). This also gave the public a better view of the School. On the advice of Sir George Oatley, the path was altered and more ground turfed to make a more harmonious slope.

In November Miss Alice Gardner died and bequeathed to the School a sum of money to enable the prize for classics which she had given for some years to be continued. She also left to the Library the *Cambridge Modern History* and the *Cambridge Mediæval History*. It is an honour for Redland to have had on the Council so distinguished an historian.

In December the School gave a very successful performance of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.

In the spring term of 1928 Miss Taylor was obliged to go to New Zealand. The School missed her very much, and all showed their sympathy by carrying on in her ways, and loyally supporting Miss Willey, who ably acted as Head in her absence. Once again the taste of Headship proved so attractive that shortly afterwards Miss Willey herself went as Headmistress to Leeds Modern Girls'

School. Everybody rejoiced in her promotion, and the School owes a great deal to her stimulating influence, not only in the History lessons, but also in the meetings of the League of Nations Union and the Debating Society.

During the term the School had the great honour and joy of a visit from the President, the Bishop of Liverpool, who regretted very much that he was not able to meet Miss Taylor. He gave us an informal and altogether delightful talk in the whimsical vein which is so peculiarly his own, and I think he enjoyed himself, though not perhaps as much as we did. At any rate, he said that when thinking of Redland High School he should always picture the girls in their green tunics sitting in the sunshine and looking very happy.

The year 1928 was marked by very good examination results. Four girls gained Junior City Scholarships from the School, and Betty Deayton, after gaining distinction in English and History in the Bristol Higher Certificate, secured one of the much-coveted State Scholarships, which she held at Somerville College. In the autumn term a large party of Senior School girls rose almost before the dawn and went to Elmore to see the famous Severn Bore, escorted by Miss Taylor and several of the staff. They arrived back in the middle of the morning very wet and cold but most enthusiastic.

The Bishop of Bristol distributed our prizes this year. It seems strange to remember in the light of after events that Canon Gamble, in his

speech as Chairman, said that he hoped it would be possible in the near future to enlarge the School buildings. Strange, too, that the Bishop should have said in the course of an inspiring and amusing address that the girls must make Canon Gamble have his photograph taken to hang in the Hall.

In the following February the School received with great sorrow the news of the sudden death of the Chairman, Canon Gamble. His scholarliness, high integrity, deep spirituality and calm, philosophical temper of mind have done for Redland more than will ever be known, though we do realize something of what we owe to him, and even if it were not for the very concrete benefits we have received from him, Canon Gamble would never be forgotten, nor would his influence be lost. All his money was left to the cause of women's education, and the trustees of his estate have acted in an almost unbelievably generous way towards Redland High School, knowing that it held a large place in his affections. To them—Miss Elizabeth Sturge, Dr. Louis Purser, and to Mr. Cyril Meade-King who has acted for them—the School owes a deep debt of gratitude. They have given us his beautiful Queen Anne desk for our Library (this desk was presented to him by his congregation when he left St. Mary's, Leigh Woods), 560 valuable books from his Library, and the munificent sum of £21,000 for scholarships and buildings.

This bequest for scholarships, together with the Shekleton Memorial, enables the School to award £100 every year to girls proceeding to the Universities,

and at the present time we already have two Gamble Scholars at Oxford, three at Cambridge, and one at Westfield College, London, and one Shekleton Scholar at Cambridge. The building I need hardly speak of—it speaks so loudly for itself as I write (in more ways than one). The new Science wing will soon be finished, and the classrooms, dining-room, kitchens, cloakrooms, Secretary's office and caretaker's quarters will probably be almost ready for use by the time this book comes out. This really belongs to the history of the next fifty years, but we owe the wonderful new accommodation we are at last able to have to the friend of the School during nearly half of the period about which I write. The Council gave us the life-like portrait of Canon Gamble which hangs in the Hall, and is to many a constant reminder of the spiritual side of life.

In March, 1929, the Council elected as Chairman the Rev. R. S. Franks, M.A., D.Litt., LL.D., Principal of the Western College. He was no stranger to us, for not only had he been on the Council since 1921, but his two daughters have both been educated at Redland, and singularly enough have both held Shekleton Scholarships at Girton. We are proud to have as Chairman one of our "Parents," as well as such a distinguished scholar.

During this year the oak reading desk, which matches the chair and table, was presented by the Old Girls in memory of Miss Helen Drew, a former member of the staff, who died in 1927 while Head-mistress of the Colston's Girls' School. Miss Drew

did a great deal for this School by her enthusiasm and wide interests and held a large place in the affections of all who knew her.

In this spring the Old Kindergarten Students' Society was formed, and although naturally a much smaller body than the Old Girls' Association, it is full of life and energy. This Society owes its initial inspiration to Miss Byrne, then head of the Kindergarten Department, and now Headmistress of Burwood Park School. The many students she trained at Redland will feel that "inspiration" is the most appropriate word I could find to describe Miss Byrne's influence.

Two of our Old Girls gave us original successes this year. Kathleen Massingham was the first girl to win the Heath Flying Scholarship and to qualify as an air pilot. She regards flying as her hobby, however, and follows a more pedestrian occupation, being a member of the Incorporated Society of Chiropodists. The other was Mabel Ackerman, who became a Fellow of the British Optical Association and a Fellow of the Spectacle Makers' Company. This latter Fellowship, we understand, entitles her to the Freedom of the City of London and to the use of the City Arms.

The School joined the Union of Girls' Schools for Social Service, and every year a service for all the Secondary Schools of Bristol is held in the Cathedral in connection with the Union.

The summer term of this year was notable for three events. A party visited London to see the Exhibition of Italian Pictures, the Tower and

Westminster Abbey, and as much else as could possibly be crammed into one perfect day. Another large and successful Fête was held, which realized £300, and the first Inter-Schools Swimming Competition took place, at which, although Redland girls did not carry off the Challenge Cup, they swam pluckily and with that enthusiasm which is always a mark of the School in whatever it undertakes. This competition has given a great impetus to the school swimming, and we now have House Swimming Competitions too. In July, 1930, the girls leaving from the Sixth Form presented a Swimming Challenge Cup for the Houses.

In July, 1930, the large grand piano arrived, and if we are sometimes tempted to grudge the space it occupies, we are quite consoled when we hear its tone. The Council paid half the cost, and a very generous and good friend of the School gave an anonymous £20 towards it. This same friend has given, also anonymously, £500 towards the building now in process of erection. Although we are debarred from sending direct thanks, we hope the warmth of our gratitude will somehow establish contact.

This seems an appropriate place to thank the countless other friends of the School who have given prizes and gifts, far too numerous to be recorded except in our grateful memory.

In December we had a grand Sale of Work, at which we did a very brisk trade in Christmas gifts. Out of the proceeds we paid for part of the grand piano, and also bought the *Encyclopædia*

Britannica, and we still have some money left to help with the cost of the Jubilee Celebrations.

In March, 1931, the Old Girls' Dramatic Society, which had been formed in 1927, gave its first public performance, *Quality Street*, and it was such a success that we hope for many more similar performances. Out of the proceeds the School received a substantial and artistic garden seat, and the rest of the money went to charities.

This year two unusual expeditions were undertaken: a party of senior girls went to London to see the Persian Exhibition during the spring term, and the summer holidays were marked by an exciting and novel adventure. Twelve of the senior girls, led by Miss Perrott and Miss Yonge, joined the "World Explorers," and went to Germany for a fortnight's camping. Many are the tales told of their doings, and I am very sorry that space prevents my saying more here than that the experiment was an unqualified success, and we understand that it has greatly helped on the cause of the League of Nations, for warm friendships were formed with the "World Explorers" of all the other countries.

It is a hopeful sign that the last examination results I can mention are very good. Joan White won the Turle Open Scholarship in Geography at Girton College this year, and the School did exceptionally well in the Cambridge examination, winning twenty-eight School Certificates, nine with honours and eighteen distinctions. Joan Morse's achievement of gaining distinction in five subjects

was only equalled by one other candidate in the whole examination.

This brings me down to the present time, and I fully realize, as everyone who reads this will realize, that I have dealt very cursorily with the last few years, but I think that is inevitable. There is a great deal more that could be said and ought to be said, but I am too close to it to say it. We are making history now, and making it very fast, but I must leave it to someone writing in 1982 to do justice to the present time. It is only the pioneer and outstanding successes that I have had space to record, but there are hundreds of others worthy of mention.

No further words of mine are needed to show how fortunate Redland has always been in the Council. The whole history of the School speaks eloquently of what it owes to the men and women who have devoted their time and thought to planning for its welfare.

Only occasional reference has been made to the boarding house, but everyone must realize what an important part of the School St. Margaret's is. Generations of boarders have found a real home there, and if I omitted to mention Mrs. Chubb, the present Housemistress, many of my readers would be bitterly disappointed. She will never be forgotten by the many girls to whom she has been a real and true friend during the last twelve years.

There are many more people to whom I ought

to pay tribute—many of the past whom through ignorance I have left out, and all of my present colleagues—but it is not generally considered good taste to write obituary notices while people are still alive! I must, however, refer to Madame Farquhar, our present Second Mistress. We in the School fully realize what we owe to her initiative and versatility, and any Old Girls who do not know her will discover this for themselves at the Jubilee week-end. I have no fear that the girls I have known at Redland, whether they have left or whether they are still in the School, will think themselves forgotten because they are not mentioned. I believe they all know that they hold a large place in my affections, although I have more than once heard my office described as the “Lion’s Den!”

It would be presumption on my part to dwell directly on what Miss Taylor has done and is doing for the School, while she is still Headmistress. The position of the School to-day, and her anxiety to welcome all old members of the staff and girls at the Jubilee Celebrations, are the most eloquent testimony that can be given.

In conclusion, I go back to the first Headmistress, Miss Cocks, and quote from her farewell speech to the School. She said: “It is as justifiable and natural for a public school to feel proud of its traditions as for a family to feel proud of its ancestral glories; but as in the family so in the school, the desire to bequeath good should be the expression of gratitude for good inheritance.” I have tried to show how much we have received and what a

goodly heritage we have, but I have only been able to record the tangible things. Behind all the history of this fifty years is the volume of tradition and spiritual influence which cannot be put into words—the eternal things that are not seen. As “we that are the School to-day” (and by that I mean past and present members) enter upon our second fifty years, let us try to express our gratitude by handing down untarnished to our successors the good inheritance which we have received in such a large measure, of things both temporal and eternal.

